

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

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FOR DEP ASST SECRETARY DIKEOS AND EA EXEC DIR SCARRITT

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SUBJECT: SECURITY POSTURE AMERICAN EMBASSY MANILA

1. AFTER REVIEWING THE CURRENT SECURITY POSTURE AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH DCM, ADMIN COUNSELOR AND REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER, THE REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR CONCURS WITH MR. COUGHLIN'S WRITTEN REPORTS COVERING THE SECURITY INADEQUACIES OF THE EMBASSY IN MANILA.

2. ALTHOUGH ALL OF THE EMBASSIES WHICH THE RSS HAS INSPECTED SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN EAST ASIA EXHIBIT MANY OF THE SAME DEFICIENCIES, THE EMBASSY IN MANILA PRESENTS A UNIQUE PROBLEM BECAUSE OF THE PHYSICAL SIZE AND CONFIGURATION OF THE EMBASSY COMPLEX, AND PARTICULARLY THOSE PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL OFFICE BUILDING ANNEX WHICH HAS EXTENSIVE PUBLIC ACTIVITY DURING BUSINESS HOURS.

3. AT PRESENT THERE HAS BEEN NO SOLID ALL INCLUSIVE SECURITY-INSPIRED RESPONSE TO THE TERRORIST THREAT. THE ONLY ALARM SYSTEM IN THE EMBASSY IS THE TRADITIONAL ALARM BETWEEN THE RESTRICTED VAULT AREA AND THE MARINE SECURITY GUARD DESK. IT IS THE ONLY EMBASSY INSPECTED BY THE RSS IN THE PAST MONTHS THAT HAS NOT ADOPTED PROVEN ELECTRONIC DEVICES SUCH AS

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CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION TO BROADEN THE MARINE

GUARDS' CAPABILITIES. IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS SOME INTERIOR PHYSICAL BARRIERS AND ACCESS CONTROLS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED, BUT THESE ARE ONLY STOPGAP MEASURES AND FRANKLY COULD NOT DETER A KUALA LUMPUR TYPE ASSAULT.

4. WHILE CERTAIN CHANGES IN STRUCTURAL CONFIGURATION WHICH WILL CALL FOR SUBSTANTIAL EXPENDITURES MUST BE HELD IN ABEYANCE FOR FUNDING, THERE ARE CERTAIN RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE STEPS WHICH CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY. FOREMOST OF THESE IS THE ADDITION OF LOCAL GUARD SERVICES AT STRATEGIC LOCATIONS DURING THE HIGH RISK HOURS WHEN THE EMBASSY IS BESIEGED BY AND IS NORMALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

5. UNUSUALLY COMPETENT CONTRACTURAL GUARD SERVICES IN MANILA CAN BE RECRUITED FOR ABOUT \$1000 PER GUARD/PER ANNUM, WHICH INCLUDES UNIFORMS, SHOES, TRAINING, AND THE USUAL SOCIAL FRINGE BENEFITS. THE EMBASSY COULD SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THE IMMEDIATE PROTECTIVE POSTURE BY AUGMENTING THEIR PRESENT GUARD FORCE BY TEN ADDITIONAL GUARDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$10,000 PER ANNUM RECURRING COSTS. THIS RECOMMENDATION HAS THE SOLID BACKING OF THE EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND THE REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR.

6. THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS PRESENTLY INSPECTING THE DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR INSTALLATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE EXPOSED CONSULAR OFFICE IN CEBU AND INTEND TO RECOMMEND A THOROUGH SECURITY REVIEW OF THAT SITUATION. THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER AND THE REGIONAL SECURITY SUPERVISOR INTEND TO TRAVEL TO CEBU NEXT WEEK, BUT WITHOUT DOUBT ANY SECURITY PROPOSALS WILL ULTIMATELY INCLUDE A RECOMMENDATION TO ADD A LOCAL GUARD/ RECEPTIONIST/SCREENING POST ON THE CONSULATE PREMISES. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE REGIONAL BUREAU CONSIDER A TOTAL OF ELEVEN CONTRACT GUARD POSITIONS AND ALLOT APPROXIMATELY \$11-12,000 ON AN IMMEDIATE BASIS TO AUGMENT THE EMBASSY S&E ALLOTMENT.

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7. SECURITY OFFICERS KNAUF AND COUGHLIN WILL TRAVEL TO THE TRANSMITTER SITE AT TINANG ON SATURDAY, OCT 18, AND DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19 WILL FORWARD FURTHER OPINIONS AND COST ESTIMATES ON REQUIRED SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE CHANCERY COMPOUND IN MANILA. THE PRESENT LOW LEVEL OF SECURITY WILL REQUIRE FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS BEYOND THOSE ALREADY CONTAINED IN COUGHLIN'S TELEGRAM, MANILA 13670 DATED 29 SEPT 75.

HOWEVER, MUCH OF THE ADDITIONAL EXPENSE WILL BE INVOLVED WITH CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISIONS AND EXTERNAL PERIMETER ALARM SYSTEMS. SOME CONSTRUCTION UTILIZING LEXGARD AND OPAQUE BALLASTIC PROTECTIVE MATERIALS AND ALSO WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE COSTS. PRESUMABLY COSTS WILL BE SHARED BY OTHER AGENCIES.

8. AS OF THIS TIME THE RSS HAS NOT FORMULATED A CONCRETE PLAN TO PRESENT TO THE EMBASSY OFFICIALS FOR THEIR CONCURRENCE, BUT THE PRESSING NEED FOR ADDITIONAL LOCAL GUARDS MUST BE PROCESSED ON AN IMMEDIATE BASIS.
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